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AUTAUGA COUNTY'S COTTRELL CEMETERY ADDED TO ALABAMA HISTORIC CEMETERY REGISTER

The Alabama Historical Commission (AHC) recently added Cottrell Cemetery near Autaugaville to the Alabama Historic Cemetery Register.

"The cemetery register is a prestigious listing of historic cemeteries in Alabama," said Lee Anne Wofford, cemetery program coordinator. "The AHC considers the notable historic cemeteries in this register to be particularly worthy of preservation and appreciation, and therefore deserving of this special recognition."

There are now eleven cemeteries in Autauga County listed on the Alabama Historic Cemetery Register, which features 285 cemeteries statewide.

Cottrell Cemetery is one of the oldest cemeteries in Autauga County. The earliest marked burial is that of William W. Cottrell, son of James L. and Lucy H. Cottrell, who was born in 1818 and died in 1825. This cemetery contains the remains of at least seven members of the Cottrell family, who settled in the area of Swift Creek along with other early settlers, including the Hall and Lewis families.

The Alabama Historical Commission administers the Alabama Historic Cemetery Program that gives aid to the general public, government officials, civic groups, and others in identifying, documenting, registering, and conserving Alabama's historic cemeteries.

The Alabama Historic Cemetery Register officially recognizes and honors family and community cemeteries that were established at least 40 years ago.

Listing in the state cemetery register is an honorary designation imposing no restrictions on property owners. State law protects all cemeteries from willful desecration and destruction.

*The mission of the **Alabama Historical Commission** is to protect, preserve, and interpret Alabama's historic places. It is the state's historic preservation agency and serves as the State Historic Preservation Office.*

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